

Simon, Michelle

From: Paul Duda <Paul.Duda@respec.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:02 AM
To: Simon, Michelle
Cc: Paul Hummel
Subject: swmm/epanet thoughts

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Hi Michelle,

Now that we got through the packaging challenges on the SWMM/EPANET work, we've been reflecting a bit on the project. It's been encouraging to see a number of messages come from outside collaborators on github the past week or so!

We understand there may be concerns about the state of the product at this point given the number of remaining issues. However, given the goals of the project from its inception, we feel like the outcome still is quite successful. From the first conference call we had with Michael, he made it clear that the goal of the project is not to be a reproduction of the current Delphi UIs, but rather a reengineering of the UIs using a completely open source development stack. He shared his perspective that with dwindling EPA budgets for software, the agency would like to go to a community development model, where interested users from all over the world could contribute to the UIs, even adding the possibility of further GIS customization and additional GIS features. We had to work through some difficulties along the way, namely using QGIS in a novel way, pushing the limits of Qt and python for UIs, the issues of porting from python 2 to 3, and the difficulties with packaging, but we've now largely arrived at the destination!

We think it is nearing the time for the project to be provided visibility from the EPA SWMM and EPANET web pages, with a link to the corresponding github page – is that your vision too? Unlike a traditional software product, the UI does not have to be perfect and bug-free (to the extent possible), because the intent is to grow a development community that will be able to fix bugs and enhance functionality. The link to the github site might provide that framing so the user understands that intent.

Let us know if you'd like to follow up with a conversation.

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